

# Hawai'i Non-Commercial Marine Fishing License

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is exploring the idea of a non-commercial marine fishing license. An external study group completed a feasibility study of a registry, permit, or license system, and a scoping process with focus groups is currently underway to provide feedback to DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) regarding the idea. In order for DLNR to establish such a license, it would first need authority from the state legislature. DAR would then proceed to work through a rule-making process that involves extensive opportunities for public input.

### ***Why? What are the advantages of a non-commercial fishing license?***

- 1) Greatly improve DAR's ability to communicate directly with fishers, including:
  - provide information about management measures currently under consideration;
  - obtain feedback from fishers about those measures;
  - notify fishers about public meetings and changes to regulations.
- 2) Obtain more precise data about non-commercial fishing activity, including:
  - number of fishers;
  - catch and effort.
- 3) Use that data (and increased funding from license fees) for better fisheries management, including:
  - more comprehensive stock assessments;
  - better understanding of life histories of important species;
  - fish habitat conservation and restoration, including artificial reefs;
  - Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) program improvements;
  - increased enforcement.

The scope of these projects would depend upon the amount of revenue generated.

Desired end result: better fishing opportunities for all non-commercial fishers.

### ***Where would the money go?***

License revenues would be deposited into an existing sport fish special fund, and could not be used for any purpose other than to benefit fishers. This includes education, enforcement, and management projects.

### ***Would license fees be the same for everyone?***

- Fees could be waived or reduced for senior citizens, children, veterans, people with financial hardships.
- Fees for non-residents could be significantly higher than those for residents.

### ***What about Native Hawaiian rights?***

A license must not impose an unreasonable burden on the exercise of traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights. The State may consider fee waivers or other measures to ensure that Native Hawaiian rights are protected in accordance with the State constitution.

### ***Would it be constitutional?***

The right to fish is subject to the State's right and responsibility to manage the resources as provided in the State constitution.

For more information, visit [dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar](http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar) and click on the Announcement "Feasibility of a non-commercial marine fishing registry, permit, or license in Hawai'i".

